

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 DHA-02 /078 W
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R 170739Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3174

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FPOR, SF, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS

REF: PRETORIA 4303

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ON NOVEMBER 14, HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION OVER PROGRESS BEING MADE IN SMITH-NKOMO TALKS. I ASKED HIM WHERE THINGS STOOD. HE SAID HE COULD TELL ME CONFIDENTIALLY THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON A DECLARATION OF INTENT, WHICH HE HAD SEEN AND FOUND TO BE "VERY GOOD." NKOMO WAS NOW CONSULTING IN GABORONE AND LUSAKA AND IF HE WON THE SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTS KHAMA AND KAUNDA, THE WAY WOULD BE CLEAR FOR MAKING IT PUBLIC. I ASKED WHETHER NKOMO WOULD BE CONSULTING MACHEL AND NYERERE. VORSTER REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK SO.

2. I NOTED THAT SINCE THE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS AT VICTORIA
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FALLS THERE WAS INCREASING SPECULATION ABOUT STEPPED-UP GUERRILLA

WARFARE AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME SUPPORTED MAINLY FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA. VORSTER OBSERVED THAT HE DID NOT SEE THIS AS AN IMMINENT POSSIBILITY. HE SAID THE ANC CAMPS IN ZAMBIA HAD BEEN CLOSED DOWN. THE ONE IN THE TETE AREA OF MOZAMBIQUE WAS CAREFULLY CONTROLLED AND THE CAMPS IN TANZANIA ARE NOT VERY ACTIVE. THIS DID NOT MEAN, HE CONTINUED, THAT THE URGENCY FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA HAD LESSENER. ON THE CONTRARY, NOW IS THE TIME TO MOVE AHEAD AND HE IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO PROMOTE AN OUTCOME AGREEABLE TO ALL SIDES AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. I SAID WE WERE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT HE AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAVE BEEN PLAYING AND THAT IF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA IS REACHED, IT WILL BE DUE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS. VORSTER RESPONDED THAT THE USG WOULD BE SURE THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ALL THE APPROPRIATELY COULD TO BRING THE PARTIES TO AN AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: VORSTER DID NOT SAY SO, BUT THE PRESS REPORTS THAT SMITH CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA LAST FRIDAY FOR HIS VACATION. HE PROBABLY STOPPED IN PRETORIA ON HIS WAY SOUTH TO DISCUSS THE DECLARATION OF INTENT WITH VORSTER. SINCE SMITH IS NOW AWAY FROM SALISBURY, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE (ASSUMING KHAMA AND KAUNDA RAISE NO OBJECTIONS) UNTIL AFTER SMITH'S RETURN IN EARLY DECEMBER. SABC NEWS BROADCASTS OVER THE WEEKEND REPORT THAT NKOMO HAD VISITED GABORONE AND LUSAKA AND WAS GOING ON TO DAR ES SALAAM AND LOURENCO MARQUES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR04375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750399-0583
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751136/aaaabgcl.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 4303
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, ANC, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006